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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

Exports of cotton from the United States in March 1954, amounted to 445,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight (430,000 running bales) making an August 1953-March 1954 total of 2,439,000 bales (2,340,000 running bales). Principal distinations included in the 8-month total were; Japan 618,000; France 319,000; Western Germany 276,000; United Kingdom 254,000; Italy 167,000; Canada 149,000; Spain 91,000; Formosa 77,000; India 68,000; the Netherlands 67,000; Korea 60,000; Belgium 43,000; Sweden 30,000; Austria 30,000; Australia 25,000; Yugoslavia 21,000; and Switzerland 20,000.

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Exports of cotton linters from the United States in March (mostly chemical grades) amounted to 45,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) or 38,000 running bales. Totals for the 8 months August 1953-March 1954 were 174,000 bales (145,000 running bales), with principal destinations for the period as follows: Western Germany 64,000; France 34,000; Japan 28,000; United Kingdom 26,000; Canada 12,000; and the Netherlands 7,000.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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MILK PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION IN PRINCIPAL PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN 1953 1/

The postwar upward trend in milk production which was broken by a slight decline in 1952 was resumed in 1953 when production increased in the 14 major milk-producing countries by 6 percent to just under 319 billion pounds. Furthermore, the increase was general with all countries showing production gains. About one-half of the increase can be attributed to greater milk cow numbers while the other half of the gain was due to an increased production per cow. Even though milk cow numbers are still 4 percent under prewar in the 14 countries, milk production is 113 percent of the prewar average.

In spite of adverse weather conditions in some of the primary producing countries during the first part of 1954, there is every indication that milk production will continue to rise.

Weather conditions were generally good throughout 1953, resulting in good pasturage and feed. Furthermore, neither the total number of cows nor production was seriously affected by disease condition of 1951 and 1952. Only in Australia was milk production adversely influenced by the weather; late winter and spring drought conditions in Queensland and New South Wales cut production per cow about 2.5 percent, holding, thereby, the increase in total production to just over 3 percent.

The increase in milk production was directed primarily to manufacturing purposes. The consumption of fluid milk showed little change over 1952, rising from 119.7 billion pounds to just under 122.3 billion, an increase of approximately 2 percent. Furthermore, most of this increase was due not to rising per-capita consumption levels, but increasing populations, particularly in Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

The proportion of total production going to fluid purposes dropped from 39.8 percent in 1952 to 38.4 percent in 1953. However, the fluid consumption ratio in the 14 countries is substantially above prewar when about one-third of the total production was so consumed.

Most of the increased production in 1953 was used in the manufacture of butter. More than 11 billion pounds of the approximately 18 billion pound increase in milk production went for buttermaking; this is an increase of 11 percent over 1952. Such utilization, however, is still only 88 percent of the prewar period. During the prewar years, almost 46 percent of total milk production went into the manufacture of butter; in 1953 just under 36 percent was so directed.

Countries showing the largest increase in milk utilization for butter are the United Kingdom, the United States, and Norway. In the United Kingdom this use was more than 147 percent of 1952; however the amount of milk going to butter manufacture is still only 44 percent of the prewar average.

1/ A more extensive statement will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

MILK: Production and utilization in specified countries, 1953 (preliminary) and 1952

Country	Production			Utilization 1/					
	Milk cows 2/	Production per cow	Milk production	Fluid milk 3/	Butter	Cheese	Canned milk	Other uses 4/	Feed
	1,000 head	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1953									
Canada	3,146	5,221	16,425	5,997	7,579	877	640	722	610
United States	22,256	5,447	5/ 121,519	56,300	32,497	12,890	6,240	10,255	3,337
Austria	1,162	4,441	5,161	2,449	1,611	331	- 6/	15	755
Belgium	955	8,160	7,793	1,549	5,140	160	33	2	909
Denmark	1,486	7,993	11,878	1,651	8,014	1,305	- 6/	368	540
France	8,911	4,334	38,623	9,769	14,086	6,134	- 6/	682	7/ 7,952
Germany, Western	5,837	6,314	36,852	12,850	16,844	2,126	741	464	3,827
Netherlands	1,504	8,576	12,897	3,007	4,392	3,356	968	402	772
Norway	710	5,023	3,567	1,633	999	554	- 6/	77	304
Sweden	1,539	6,559	10,097	3,680	4,810	935	- 6/	121	551
Switzerland 8/	886	6,724	6,054	2,333	1,107	1,464	- 6/	158	992
United Kingdom	3,682	6,452	23,758	17,379	1,238	2,096	576	762	1,707
Australia	2,224	5,505	9/ 12,243	2,700	7,694	1,061	308	480	-
New Zealand 10/	1,962	5,985	11,743	987	8,058	2,132	- 6/	381	185
1952									
Canada	2,968	5,302	15,735	5,801	7,126	796	710	686	616
United States	21,615	5,329	11/115,597	55,600	28,077	11,640	6,849	10,082	3,349
Austria	1,172	4,347	5,095	2,495	1,563	269	- 6/	8	760
Belgium	941	7,830	7,368	1,684	4,598	158	15	4	909
Denmark	1,476	7,465	11,019	1,651	7,123	1,297	- 6/	441	507
France	8,478	4,020	34,079	8,406	12,269	5,453	- 6/	454	7/ 7,497
Germany, Western	5,805	6,005	34,862	12,309	15,842	1,959	573	373	3,806
Netherlands	1,483	8,322	12,344	3,142	3,875	3,081	993	525	728
Norway	711	4,828	3,433	1,588	853	624	- 6/	77	291
Sweden	1,550	6,495	10,064	3,633	4,637	1,069	- 6/	181	544
Switzerland 8/	912	6,415	5,935	2,353	1,037	1,383	- 6/	126	1,036
United Kingdom	3,599	6,242	22,454	17,450	841	1,353	625	529	1,656
Australia	2,100	5,643	9/ 11,850	2,659	7,330	993	350	518	-
New Zealand 10/	1,901	5,843	11,108	963	7,781	1,906	- 6/	284	174

In the United States the increase in manufacture utilization, which in the case of butter was almost 16 percent over 1952, was attributable in the main to the price support program of the Government which took approximately 25 percent of the creamery butter production in supporting the market price of the product; Government purchases also accounted for almost one-half of the dried skim milk production.

The quantity of milk used in the production of cheese continued to increase in 1953 in the 14 countries when over 35.4 billion pounds was utilized; this is an increase of approximately 3.5 billion pounds, 11 percent, over 1952. Utilization for cheese in 1953 was 151 percent of the prewar level of 23.5 billion pounds.

The only countries reducing the amount of milk for the processing of cheese were Norway and Sweden. The largest percentage increase was registered by the United Kingdom which increased its utilization for cheese by almost 55 percent over 1952 and over 100 percent above the prewar average. The milk utilization for cheese in the United States rose almost 11 percent over 1952 and is now almost double that of the prewar years. Almost the entire increase went to the manufacture of American (cheddar) cheese which is the cheese product used to support dairy products prices; Government purchases of American cheese accounted for about 30 percent of the production.

Some of the 14 major milk producing countries do not report separate data on the milk utilization or production of canned milk products. For those countries which do, however, the utilization of milk for such processing continued to decline; only 9.5 billion pounds was so used in 1953, a decrease of about 6 percent from 1952. However, canned milk utilization is still 73 percent above the prewar average level.

Milk going for other uses, which includes dried whole milk and, in some countries, canned milk products, increased about 4 percent over 1952; utilization is more than double prewar levels, due almost entirely to the rapid development and expansion of the milk drying industry. The quantity of whole milk fed to livestock is again back above the prewar average.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

MEXICAN CATTLE PRODUCTION HURT BY DROUGHT

Livestock production in Northern Mexico still is seriously affected by drought, which in early April continued for the fourth straight year. The affected area contains perhaps 20 to 25 percent of Mexico's cattle and it is that section that engages mostly in trade with the United States. Since March most of Chihuahua has received the first precipitation of any consequence in a year but more is needed now and through the remainder of the rainy season to restore soil moisture, ranges and pastures to a normal condition.

In early April pine, oak and other native trees were reported dead or dying from lack of moisture in Coahuila. Springs were failing and wells, which were replenished by the September rains, were reaching dangerously low levels. The Rio Grande was almost as low as the record low flow of last summer. Reservoirs in the southern extremes of Sonora are below normal, but no great alarm is felt in regard to irrigation water there. However, in the central and northern sections farmers are not only worried about having enough water for cash crops, but they are seriously concerned over not being able to raise enough forage to maintain their cattle.

The Mexican Government has recently removed the 3 percent Federal export tax on meat products and State taxes on the movement of cattle. It also has reduced freight rates on live cattle from the North to Mexico City by 50 percent and by 70 percent for moving cattle from the northern drought areas to areas having sufficient feed. A 50-percent reduction in freight rates for moving feed to the disaster area is now effective. Import duties on some items such as windmills and fence wire have been abolished and State subsidies have been provided so that cattle producers may dig wells, build dams and make other improvements to cope with the situation.

It is believed that cattle numbers in the 4 United States border States; Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila and Nuevo Leon, are now about 500,000 greater than in 1951 principally because of a decline in shipments of meat and cattle to the United States in 1953 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, April 26, 1954) and the drought which has reduced the calf crops, increased death losses and prevented cattle from reaching slaughter condition.

Two packing plants in Piedras Negras resumed operations early in the year and have shipped salted boneless beef to the United States. Producers have been reluctant to sell cattle in poor flesh at the low prevailing prices and are hoping to hold their stock until the rains come. During the past year local growers have been able to sell small lots of heavy cattle to metropolitan centers in Mexico whence they are trucked or shipped in private rail cars. However, such sales are not very satisfactory due to difficulties of shipping, lack of feed and water en route and long drives overland from the ranches to highways and rail centers.

Sonora packing plants have done little business this season. The Magdalena plant began slaughtering on January 21 and was scheduled to suspend activities during the first week of April after handling only 8,000 canners and cutters. The carcasses were boned and salt-cured for later sale in the United States.

An outlet has developed for several thousand stocker cattle from Sonora for shipments to Peru, as reported in Foreign Crops and Markets, March 8, 1954. It is believed that this movement may total 50,000 head, although only around 10,000 had been purchased in early April. Several hundred tons of frozen beef have been shipped from Guaymas to Europe.

IRELAND CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE OF CHOCOLATE CRUMB TRADE WITH U.K.

With favorable prospects for 1954 milk production, the dairy industry of Ireland is becoming increasingly concerned with the future of the chocolate crumb (milk-cocoa-sugar mixture) export trade to the United Kingdom. In 1953 exports to the United Kingdom of all dairy products declined substantially with the exception of chocolate crumb, sales of which to the United Kingdom rose from 67 million pounds in 1952 to 105 million pounds in 1953. On a whole-milk equivalent basis this represented an increase of approximately 115 million pounds. Declines in the exports of butter, cheese, condensed milk, and milk powder to the United Kingdom amounted to over 40 million pounds on a whole-milk equivalent basis.

During the first 2 months of 1954 milk production in the United Kingdom was up almost 6 percent over the same months of 1953 while liquid consumption of milk increased only .2 percent. With more milk thus available for manufacturing purposes, it is expected that a considerable part of the increase in surplus milk will be used in the manufacture of chocolate crumb. In 1953, manufacturers in the United Kingdom used over 210 million pounds of milk to manufacture 41.5 percent of the chocolate crumb consumed; this compared with 78 million pounds of milk used in 1952 to produce 27.9 percent of the total consumption of this product.

Chocolate crumb is used for beverage purposes and by the chocolate trade in large amounts for couverture. The main ingredient is sugar which constitutes about one-half of the total weight. The milk content, in either dried or condensed form, comprises about one-third of the weight. The moisture content is about 10 percent and cocoa mass or cocoa butter makes up the remainder. About 31 gallons of whole milk, or 267 pounds are used to make 100 pounds of chocolate crumb.

MEXICO TO EMBARGO POWDERED MILK IMPORTS

The Minister of Agriculture has announced that the Mexican Government will ban the importation of powdered milk as an incentive towards increasing domestic production. The Minister said, in part, "We are now importing annually 33 million pesos (approximately $2,640,000) in powdered milk....We must recognize that a country that cannot even produce sufficient basic articles for its own diet can never aspire to a solid economy and even less to a lasting prosperity".

Approximately 50.5 percent of the 19 million pounds of Mexican imports of powdered whole, powdered skim and baby food products with milk base came from United States sources during 1953.

U. K. ANNOUNCES OTHER MEAT DECONTROL ACTIONS

The British Minister of Food announced on April 28 that price controls and the rationing of all meats and bacon in the United Kingdom would end at midnight July 3, 1954. The Government's intention to withdraw its controls from the meat trade have been known for several months, but the exact date of the decontrol actions had not previously been announced (see Foreign Crops and Markets, February 15, 1954 and March 8, 1954). The schedule for ending associated controls also was announced.

During June the Ministry of Food will discontinue distribution of meat by Meat Supply Associations. It will also end hog purchases throught Area Pig Allocation Officers and will discontinue to slaughter livestock.

Beginning July 1 farmers will be able to sell livestock by private treaty or through auctions.

Meat stocks held by the Government on July 3, and new arrivals under the bulk purchase contracts, will be sold by the Ministry to the trade for resale in the open market.

Private imports from sources with which the United Kingdom has bulk purchase contracts will be resumed as soon after July 3 as those contracts are completed. Private imports from other sources will be resumed on July 4. While the volume of meat imported by private traders will increase as the bulk purchase contracts expire during the second half of 1954, the greater part of the meat imported during that period will continue to be purchased by the Ministry. The Ministry will continue to be the sole importer of bacon under existing bulk purchase contracts. Bacon will be sold to the trade for resale free from rationing and price controls. Home-produced bacon will be sold in the regular market beginning in July.

Price control on meats in the United Kingdom began on September 4, 1939, 3 days after the German invasion of Poland, at the start of World War II. Rationing of meat supplies began on March 11, 1940. Rationing and price controls on bacon became effective on January 8, 1940. Edible offals were unrationed except for a short period in 1941. Canned corned meat was rationed until May 1953. At the present time all types of carcass meat, edible offals and canned corned meat are subject to price controls. Bacon and ham is also subject to price controls, except canned hams or shoulders. Since August 16, 1953 retailers have been able to sell bacon off the ration after they have satisfied the ration requirements of their registered customers of 5 ounces a week.

Meat imports on private account were suspended in September 1939 when the Government took over the responsibility for meat purchases and distribution.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL SITUATION

Receipts of new clip wool into store during the July 1953 - March 1954 period of the current season totaled 3,350,389 bales, about 1.1 percent or 37,620 bales smaller than during the same portion of the 1952-53 season. Receipts into store during the first 9 months of this season were equivalent to about 992 million pounds as compared to approximately a billion pounds for the same period of a year earlier. Based on an estimated production of 1,260 million pounds during the current season this means that about 268 million pounds of wool remained in growers hands at the end of March as compared to about 300 million pounds a year earlier.

Total disposals to the end of March were 6 percent larger than a year earlier, leaving 287,565 bales or about 85 million pounds of wool unsold in store at the end of March as compared to 152 million pounds at the end of March 1953. This means that during the April-June period of the current season the available supplies remaining totaled about 350 million pounds as compared to 450 million for the same months of the 1952-53 season.

Auction sales were resumed after the Easter recess on a strong tone in spite of the withdrawal of Russian buying. (Soviet purchases July-January total 37 million pounds about 6 percent of total export sales during the period). During the last week in April fine wool prices were at the highest point since the beginning of the year.

The Australian wool trade anticipates strong demand for the relatively less attractive clips and oddments which will come on the market during the remainder of the season. Demand for both raw wool in Australia and textiles in Europe is expected to continue as a market supporting factor. The hand-to-mouth buying policy followed by English mills throughout the season is reported to have left them with small inventories, and more active bidding will be required if they are to obtain sufficient wool to carry them through until the new season opens at the end of August. Also despite the fact that wools available will not be particularly well suited to the American market, recent interest suggest the possibility of more buying by the United States.

If prices remain favorable there is a distinct possibility that more growers than usual in New South Wales and Queensland will shear their sheep this autumn, some of them prematurely, in order to cash in on the favorable prices this season. However, if some of this premautre shearing does not occur it seems probable that the current clip may fall short of 1,260 million pounds (1,150 million pounds of shorn wool) estimated output for the season.

8 MILLION POUNDS OF POWDERED MILK FROM U.S. DISTRIBUTED IN INDIA

Under Section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, the United States Government is authorized to donate Government-owned commodities purchased under the price support programs to welfare organizations for relief distribution overseas. Between August 1953 and March 1954 the American Friends Service Committee, the American National Red Cross, the Church World Service and the War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference have shipped to India almost 8 million pounds of nonfat dry milk solids (powdered skim milk).

The distribution of the product was a vast undertaking with extensive planning. The Council of Voluntary Agencies held a series of meetings to prepare for the distribution of the powdered milk. The American Embassy participated in the planning and supplied a detailed "scarcity" map of India. Also participating in the distribution planning were representatives from UNICEF and the Indian Red Cross; prominent Indian officials and civilians who knew the needs of India also served as consultants. Established regional relief committees were enlisted to assist in the distribution and, where no such committees existed, new groups were formed. Thousands of individuals and agencies were brought into the distribution picture.

The accomplishments in distributing this milk to needy persons throughout India is highly significant, since distribution often required sending the drums of powdered milk for hundreds of miles into out-of-the-way places by ox cart and even on the backs of men.

U.K. TO GUARANTEE MINIMUM PRICES FOR AUSTRALIAN MEAT AFTER DECONTROL

Australian meat exports to the United Kingdom will be made on the basis of private trade with prices determined in the open market. Any margin below the guaranteed prices to Australia will be made up by the Government of the United Kingdom, according to agreements recently reached between the Australian Meat Board and the British Ministry of Food. These new arrangements became necessary for implementing the long-term meat purchase agreement with Australia, when the meat trade returns to private hands later this year.

After July 1, 1954 lamb and mutton shipments from Australia to the United Kingdom will be exported by private firms directly to private dealers and will be sold in the open market. In the case of beef, veal and pork such arrangements will begin on October 1, 1954.

A schedule of minimum prices for Australian beef, mutton and lamb has been agreed upon for the 12 months commencing October 1, 1954. Minimum prices after September 30, 1955 will be negotiated before that date. The Government of the United Kingdom will guarantee that average returns on the British market during 1954-55 will be not less than 95 percent of 1953-54 prices for beef, 93 percent for lamb and first quality mutton, 90 percent for second grade mutton, 85 percent for third grade mutton and 75 percent for ewe mutton.

Since 1939-40, Australian lamb, mutton and beef have been sold to the United Kingdom under long-term contracts. The current 15-year agreement terminates on September 30, 1967. It covers the terms of export to the United Kingdom for all meats, except pork and canned meats. Clauses of the original agreement pledged Australia to maintain and increase, if possible, its exports to the United Kingdom, while the British in turn endeavored to supply needed farm equipment. The United Kingdom undertook to buy, and the Australian Government to sell all of the export surplus (except agreed-upon amounts to other markets).

Under the agreement, Australia may supply its traditional markets outside the United Kingdom, which include Malaya, Malta, British West Indies, Hong Kong, New Guinea, the Pacific Islands and a few other minor areas. These markets take around 25 million pounds of meat annually. Australia also has the right to develop and maintain trade with other markets and the quantity of meat which may be shipped (beef, veal, lamb and mutton) under this provision may not exceed 3 percent of the total shipped to the British or such other amounts as may be agreed upon annually between the two Governments.

It is under the "free" quota that Australian meat enters the United States. United States imports from Australia in 1953 included 3 million pounds of lamb and mutton, compared with 5.4 million a year earlier. Imports of Australian beef and veal in 1953 amounted to only 0.3 million pounds compared with 2.3 million during 1952.

Exports of Australian meat have been subject to the control of the Australian Meat Board. That body consists mainly of meat producers and exporters, and has acted as an agent for the Commonwealth Government in arranging for the buying and shipment of contract meat. Each year it has issued a schedule of purchase prices for export supplies. It issued licenses for exports to destinations other than the United Kingdom or under orders of the British Ministry of Food.

The Commonwealth Government purchase prices have been regarded as floor prices generally, but prices could fall below the floors due to variations in supply. When domestic meat prices fall below the Meat Board buying prices suppliers would sell for export which would in turn support prices in the domestic market.

Livestock are sold at auction or by private sale and are not subject to direct control by the Australian Meat Board. However, they have been influenced materially by the contract prices. Since early in World War II the Commonwealth Government has maintained some control over wholesale and retail prices and until recently these controls have continued to operate in parts of the country.

GRAIN TRADE NOTES

Argentina's Grain Export Availabilities: Argentina's exportable surplus of wheat for the marketing year beginning December 1, 1953 totaled about 3.0 to 3.5 million metric tons. Exports during the first 4 months of this season (December, 1953 - March, 1954) amounted to about 934,000 metric tons, leaving some 2.1 to 2.6 million tons available for export during the remainder of the current marketing season. The export availabilities of corn for the year beginning April 1, 1954 have been estimated at about 3.6 million tons. With respect to barley, rye, and oats, it now appears that most of these grains which were available for export during the marketing season beginning December 1, 1953 have already been exported or committed for export.

Supplies of Wheat and Barley in Iraq: It appears that approximately 250,000 metric tons of wheat will be carried over into the 1954-55 season in Iraq, assuming that the Government does not rescind the present export ban. Domestic consumption of wheat in Iraq averages about 500,000 tons per year.

With respect to barley, the 1953-54 export availabilities were estimated at about 660,000 tons. Based on the heavy rate of exports thus far in 1953-54, stocks are expected to be very low at the end of this season. Domestic consumption of barley amounts to about 450,000 tons annually.

Increasing Corn Yields in Spain Reflect More Extensive Use of Hybrid Seed: The yield per acre of corn in Spain during the past 3 seasons has been considerably above the postwar (1945-49) average of 21.5 bushels. In the 1951, 1952, and 1953 seasons, Spanish corn yields per acre averaged 25.9 bushels, 27.0 bushels, and 25.4 bushels, respectively. These increases reflect, at least in part, the effects of a more extensive use of higher-yielding hybrid seed.

Chile's Export Quotas on Oats and Barley Revised: Announcement has been made of a revision in Chile's export quotas for oats and barley for the calendar year 1954. The revised quotas (in metric tons), together with the old annual quotas shown in parenthesis, are as follows: oats, 12,700 (30,000); oatmeal, 2,000 (4,000); barley, 16,345 (30,000); barley malt, 18,000 (20,000).

The reduction in these export quotas is expected to have little, if any, practical significance as the revised quotas exceed the anticipated quantities which may be available for export during 1954.

Wheat Consumption in Paraguay: The annual consumption of wheat in Paraguay totals, 60-70,000 metric tons. Inasmuch as Paraguay produces only very small quantities, most of the wheat requirements are imported. Ordinarily, Argentina is the major supplier. Stocks on hand at the beginning of 1954 were very low, totaling only 1,000 to 1,500 tons.

WORLD COTTON PRODUCTION NEAR RECORD

World cotton production in 1953-54, now estimated at 37.1 million bales (of 500 pounds gross) is the second highest on record, exceeded only by the 1937-38 estimate of 39.0 million bales. The current estimate is about 1.3 million bales or nearly 4 percent higher than that for 1952-53. The upward revision of 350,000 bales in the 1953-54 estimate since the last previous report on February 1, 1954, is accounted for mainly by higher estimates for China, Egypt, Brazil, the Belgian Congo, Argentina, and the United States, partly offset by lower estimates for India, Turkey, and Pakistan.

World acreage data (lacking for many countries) indicate a decline in cotton acreage from 84.75 million acres in 1951-52 to 82.0 million in 1952-53 and a further decline to 81.0 million in 1953-54. This decline is attributed mainly to acreage reductions in the United States and Brazil where yields per acre were increased. Decreases in acreage in the past year were also significant in Egypt, Pakistan, Turkey, and Syria.

The 1953-54 United States crop of 16,465,000 bales (final estimate) is 1,326,000 bales higher than that for 1952-53 and the fourth largest on record. This estimate is 1.0 to 2.0 million bales higher than estimates made early in the season before late rains provided relief from prolonged drought in central and western States. Ideal harvesting weather in most states also permitted longer than usual growing period, additional yield, and better quality.

Production in non-Communist areas including the United States, has increased by about a million bales in the past 2 years from 28.7 million in 1951-52 to 28.9 million in 1952-53 to 29.7 million in 1953-54. Some tendency to increase is to be noted also in Communist countries. Incomplete information indicates for this latter group a total of 7.0 million bales in 1951-52, 6.9 million in 1952-53, and 7.4 million in 1953-54. The totals for non-Communist foreign countries are 13.5 million, 13.7 million, and 13.2 million bales, respectively, for the 3 years.

Decreases in foreign production in 1953-54 were sharpest in Egypt, Pakistan, and Syria where cotton acreage was restricted by law in favor of food production programs. Acreage and production in South Brazil declined in 1953-54 because of abandonment of the Government price guarantees for cotton and existence of more attractive prices for alternative crops. A decrease of about 90,000 bales in the Turkish crop was due to a voluntary shift by farmers to cultivation of other crops and to a lesser extent to unfavorable weather.

COTTON: Acreage and production in specified areas, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1951-53 1/

Continent and country	Acreage					Production 2/				
	Average		1951	1952 3/	1953 3/	Average		1951	1952 3/	1953 3/
	1935-39	1945-49				1935-39	1945-49			
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
NORTH AMERICA										
El Salvador	9	35	72	71	54	5	21	42	45	48
Guatemala	-	8	20	22	26	2	5	11	16	21
Mexico	725	1,034	2,183	1,937	1,890	334	577	1,273	1,250	1,200
Nicaragua	9	11	86	80	100	5	7	47	61	80
United States	27,788	21,258	26,949	25,921	24,341	13,149	12,104	15,149	15,139	16,465
British West Indies	20	12	-	-	-	5	4	5	-	-
Haiti	-	37	41	40	40	22	10	7	7	7
Total 4/	28,642	22,403	29,391	28,111	26,486	13,523	12,730	16,543	16,533	17,835
EUROPE										
Bulgaria 5/	85	82	-	-	-	35	20	-	-	-
Greece	168	111	213	203	211	76	52	130	111	147
Italy	56	40	72	118	124	21	11	25	32	35
Rumania 5/	8	102	-	-	-	2	-	18	-	-
Spain	46	130	110	150	200	10	18	30	65	80
Yugoslavia	8	-	39	18	-	3	-	5	3	6
Total 4/	372	511	607	689	765	147	127	228	256	313
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	5,087	3,697	-	-	-	3,430	2,328	-	-	-
ASIA										
Aden	-	-	10	11	23	-	-	6	9	17
Cyprus	11	5	11	14	-	3	1	2	3	-
Iran	453	239	371	445	500	171	85	124	165	210
Iraq	53	22	110	125	51	11	5	37	13	17
Syria	85	59	537	457	370	28	32	225	207	220
Turkey	667	645	1,586	1,669	1,473	249	268	600	690	600
Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	-	49	16	53	62	55
Burma	428	178	300	360	-	97	32	75	90	84
China (incl. Manchuria	7,038	5,831	10,100	9,350	10,200	2,855	1,939	3,000	2,900	3,200
French Indochina	36	-	-	-	-	6	2	4	-	-
India	24,204	11,306	16,198	15,678	17,200	5,348	2,304	3,150	2,975	3,500
Korea 7/	564	344	361	225	-	198	89	100	65	-
Indonesia	27	-	-	-	-	9	4	-	-	-
Pakistan	6/	2,965	3,244	3,430	3,100	6/	1,024	1,340	1,525	1,225
Philippine Islands	5	5	3	1	1	1	1	1	8/	8/
Thailand	16	84	77	97	-	7	26	28	32	-
Total 4/	33,805	21,827	33,049	32,019	33,752	9,038	5,835	8,760	8,754	9,250

SOUTH AMERICA										
Argentina	770	962	1,385	1,316	1,300	289	427	580	575	580
Brazil	5,562	4,520	5,100	4,500	-	1,956	1,352	1,950	1,560	1,350
Colombia	98	-	136	200	-	23	27	47	78	80
Ecuador	40	41	35	31	-	13	11	10	10	12
Paraguay	111	123	175	130	160	40	47	73	53	60
Peru	428	345	465	482	519	379	308	429	444	426
Venezuela	50	-	42	35	30	11	11	17	12	13
Total 4/	7,060	6,177	7,341	6,698	6,292	2,711	2,184	3,107	2,733	2,529
AFRICA AND OCEANIA										
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	439	371	571	620	651	248	246	285	385	400
Belgian Congo	874	745	850	-	900	172	195	240	208	230
Kenya	-	51	68	56	60	13	6	13	7	12
Nyasaland	84	-	-	-	-	12	8	10	13	13
Tanganyika	-	-	-	-	-	50	38	39	68	40
Uganda	1,477	1,324	1,518	1,468	1,512	281	227	316	267	320
Canary Islands	-	2	5	7	-	-	1	4	6	-
Egypt	1,821	1,367	2,055	2,042	1,375	1,893	1,456	1,666	2,047	1,461
French Equatorial Africa	390	-	-	-	-	41	104	145	130	125
French North Africa	1	5	33	35	-	8/	2	14	17	13
French West Africa	-	-	-	-	-	28	14	35	35	30
Mozambique	-	557	680	700	-	9/ 33	104	140	185	160
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	36	48	110	90	110
Angola	73	-	110	-	-	13	24	22	32	24
Southern Rhodesia	2	5	37	-	-	8/	2	6	-	-
Union of South Africa	-	12	80	80	85	2	3	29	28	30
Australia	53	5	5	9	10	11	1	2	3	4
Total 4/	6,176	5,710	7,692	7,663	6,930	2,840	2,483	3,082	3,534	2,993
World total 4/	81,142	60,325	84,750	81,980	81,025	31,689	25,687	35,720	35,810	37,120

1/ Years refer to crop years, beginning August 1, in which major portion of crop was harvested. 2/ Production in bales of 478 pounds net prior to 1946 and 480 pounds thereafter. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Includes estimates for minor producing countries not listed above and allowances for other figures not available. 5/ Figures for 1943 to date are not comparable with prewar figures because of boundary changes. 6/ Included with India. 7/ South Korea only after 1941. 8/ Less than 500. 9/ Exports.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, and results of office research.

The only significant increases in foreign production in 1953-54 were in India, the Soviet Union, and China. The increase in India was due partly to favorable weather but mainly to moderation of restrictive regulations and a revival of cotton planting following about 10 years of restriction of cotton cultivation in favor of food crops. Rising mill consumption and the difficulties arising from the necessity for meeting mill requirements with heavy imports of cotton in the past 3 years probably were among the factors responsible for moderation of the restrictions.

Such information as is available from the Soviet Union and China indicates production is slightly higher than in 1952-53 due to improved weather in the Soviet Union and strong Government efforts in China to expand cotton cultivation to reduce the requirements for imported cotton.

The current estimate of world production is about 2.6 million bales more than a preliminary estimate (34.5 million bales) of world consumption for 1953-54 based on 5 to 7 months' statistics from 21 of the major consuming countries.

It is too early to estimate foreign production for 1954-55 but present demand, stocks, and prices in relation to those of a year ago (at planting time in the northern hemisphere) indicate the possibility of a small increase in acreage. Stocks in foreign exporting countries are approximately 1.5 million bales lower than those of a year ago, stocks in importing countries are .4 to .5 million bales lower than on August 1, 1953, world consumption is at a record high level and prices of foreign growths are generally 4 to 9 cents a pound higher than those of a year ago except in Brazil and India. In Brazil, high Government supports were still in effect a year ago and in India, cotton price controls are still in effect.

In Egypt where production was reduced about 28 percent in 1953-54 an international commission is said to have recommended that the Government reverse its policy of restricting cotton production in favor of wheat and rely upon imports to cover any deficit in its cereal supplies. Application of acreage restrictions in the United States this year also may offer some further encouragement to foreign growers to increase their 1954 cotton acreage.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS IN MARCH, 1954

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco in March 1954, totaled 21.7 million pounds valued at $12.9 million. This was 2.7 million pounds higher than in February but 47 percent below March 1953, a month in which shipments of flue-cured leaf to the United Kingdom were abnormally high.

Exports of flue-cured tobacco were 16.9 million pounds in March of this year compared to 34.9 million for March of 1953, a 51 percent decrease, due to the above mentioned drop in shipments to the United Kingdom. Most other types also showed substantial decreases but exports of Burley and Virginia fire-cured were higher than a year earlier.

In the first 3 months of the current year, total tobacco leaf exports were 25 percent below the previous year. Exports of flue-cured for the same period dropped 24 percent while exports of cigar-filler and Burley show a slight increase. Exports of most of the other types have dropped off.

Exports of U.S. Unmanufactured Tobacco, March 1954,
January-March 1954 with Comparisons

(Export Weight)

Type	March		Jan.-March	
	1953	1954	1953	1954
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Flue-Cured	34,887	16,956	76,537	58,336
Burley	1,194	1,557	3,787	4,239
Virginia Fire-Cured	312	429	1,284	766
Dark-Fired Kentucky-Tennessee	1,993	1,631	6,694	3,466
Maryland	608	131	1,826	980
Green River	709	485	967	771
One Sucker	55	51	174	158
Cigar Wrapper	306	117	995	560
Cigar Binder	362	8	925	347
Cigar Filler	22	8	133	147
Other	572	343	1,354	1,384
Total	41,020	21,716	94,676	71,154
Declared value, million dollars	26.4	12.9	60.4	46.5

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of cigarettes, cigars and cheroots and smoking tobacco in packages were lower in March 1954 than the same period 1953. Exports of chewing tobacco and snuff and smoking tobacco in bulk were substantially higher for the same periods.

Exports of all tobacco products, with the exception of cigars and cheroots and chewing tobacco and snuff, were lower in the January-March 1954 period than in the same period a year ago.

Exports of U.S. Tobacco Products March, 1954 with Comparisons

Class of Products	March		Jan.-March	
	1953	1954	1953	1954
Cigars and cheroots (1,000 pieces)	537	467	1,063	2,000
Cigarettes (1,000 pieces)	1,812,775	1,254,288	4,466,841	3,711,242
Chewing tobacco and snuff (1,000 pounds)	73	166	313	389
Smoking tobacco in packages (1,000 pounds)	108	38	171	126
Smoking tobacco in bulk (1,000 pounds)	218	411	947	664
Declared value, million dollars	6.7	4.9	16.6	14.5

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census

REOPENING OF LIVERPOOL COTTON FUTURES MARKET [1]

The Liverpool Cotton Futures Market is scheduled to reopen on May 18, 1954, for the first time since March 31, 1941, when it was closed as a wartime emergency act. Exchange control arrangements necessary to facilitate cotton futures trading were announced on April 21 by the Bank of England. The "Cotton Act, 1954" passed by the British Parliament on April 14 repeals the monopoly functions of the Raw Cotton Commission and makes provision for the eventual dissolution of that agency.

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[1] Based mainly on information taken from the British press.

The Commission is cooperating with the industry in providing information on its stocks and developing operating systems to be adopted during the transition period (May 18 to August 31, 1954) while its cover scheme functions simultaneously with the futures market. Contracting-in spinners are being given the opportunity to purchase their regular forward commitments out of the Commission's stocks in accordance with recent announcements. After June 30 for American types and after July 31 for Egyptian types, any remaining unsold stocks will be made available to any buyer. The Commission will cease trading on August 31 except for liquidation of outstanding commitments and stocks.

Actual figures on stocks were not reported but some indication of the quantities on hand is revealed by the following information. The Commission holds sufficient stocks of United States cotton to satisfy normal contracting-in requirements up to October delivery. Stocks of Brazilian Sao Paulo cotton will meet requirements through October. Enough Uganda cotton is held to cover consumption until March 1955. Unsold stocks of Mexican, Argentine, Syrian, Turkish, Greek, Russian, American-type Sudanese, Belgian Congo, and Tanganyika are very small and the Commission does not intend to make further purchases. Stocks of Pakistani cotton are virtually exhausted. A statement will be issued by the Commission at a later date outlining arrangements for dealing in Egyptian, Peruvian, Sudanese, Californian, and B.P. 52 (East African) cotton.

The Futures Market will operate under the jurisdiction of the Bank of England. The Liverpool Cotton Association and the Manchester Cotton Association have the authority to recommend eligible persons or firms for trading, to enforce observance of regulations by participants and must appoint a Committee to consult regularly with the Bank. Dealings with buyers and sellers in any part of the world will be permitted to persons and firms having a continuing interest in the importation and marketing of cotton and as recommended by the two Associations mentioned.

The exchange control arrangements provide that for futures transactions, participants may operate or arbitrage on markets outside the Scheduled Territories for account of themselves, of another participant or of a non-resident of the Scheduled Territories but not for account of any other resident in the United Kingdom. No objection will be raised to non-residents operating on the futures market.

U. K. COTTON CONSUMPTION CONTINUES HIGH

Maintaining the level of recent months, consumption of cotton in the United Kingdom during the first 6 months of the current cotton year (August 1953-January 1954) amounted to 901,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) as compared with 737,000 bales for the corresponding period of 1952-53, according to K. M. Greaves, American Consulate, Manchester, England. This increase of 21 percent in consumption reflects the degree of the recovery attained by the industry from the trade recession in 1952.

Cotton imports for the 7-month period, August 1953-February 1954 totaled 921,000 bales, 41 percent above the comparable figure of 652,000 bales for 1952-53. Principal sources of the 1953-54 imports, with 1952-53 figures in parenthesis were: United States 193,000 (256,000); Anglo-Egyptian Sudan 144,000 (41,000); Egypt 116,000 (19,000); Brazil 120,000 (none); India and Pakistan 72,000 (20,000); Mexico 57,000 (58,000); Argentina 46,000 (76,000); British West Africa 44,000 (49,000); British East Africa 38,000 (66,000); and Peru 32,000 (33,000).

Stocks of all cotton on January 31, 1954 were 915,000 bales, or 15 percent less than those of a year ago. Cotton prices were steady in March and no changes in quotations for American cotton were made by the Raw Cotton Commission between the dates of March 11, and April 8. A recent statement from the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations reported that over 9½ percent of Lancashire's spindles were now spinning rayon and other fibers, many of them in mixtures with cotton.

SPRING SOWINGS IN THE SOVIET UNION

A small increase of 3.3 million acres was reported by the Russian Ministry of Agriculture in total area seeded to crops on collective farms by April 25 compared with the corresponding period last year. Corn, expanded planting of which is being greatly emphasized by the Russian Government, accounted for nearly half of the increase.

The acreage under corn and other feedgrains (oats and barley) was reduced in recent years, while that under grasses (tame hay) was expanded. But low yields of grasses in the drier regions led to a reversal of this policy, and some of the grass area is being devoted to feedgrains during the current year.

Reports from many important regions of the U.S.S.R., so far removed as western Siberia, the northern Caucasus and the southern Ukraine, indicate that a late and unstable spring, following unusually severe cold spells in the winter, considerably delayed the sowing of spring crops. Shortage of moisture was also reported from some important southern regions.

A late spring in Russia often means a short optimum planting period, especially in the extensive semi-arid zone. Favorable conditions during the growing season, however, may offset the adverse effect of this situation on crop yields. A retarded spring is doubtless increasing the difficulties in carrying out the much publicized Soviet program to expand spring wheat cultivation on the virgin, and mostly marginal, land in the eastern regions of the U.S.S.R.

NETHERLANDS FREES IMPORTS OF FATS AND OIL-BEARING MATERIALS

The Netherlands Government has removed fats and oil-bearing materials (except flaxseed and linseed oil) from state trading, effective May 9, 1954, and imports may now be made freely. In 1953 the Netherlands, where considerable trading takes place, imported 268,941 tons of fats and oils, as such, and 406,797 tons of oil-bearing materials.

BRAZIL'S OILSEED OUTPUT UP SLIGHTLY: PROBABLE CONTINUED DECLINE IN EXPORTS

Brazil's oilseed production in 1954 may show a slight increase from the low output of 1953, except for some of the forest-produced commodities which have decreased slightly due to higher extraction costs, reports Paul Ferree, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Rio de Janeiro. It is not likely that Brazil will import more fats and oils in 1954, with the possible exception of lard, from nondollar countries. The outlook is for continued high prices, periods of short supply, and probably a continued decline in exports.

Although oilseed production has recovered somewhat from the 1953 low, caused by drought and declining world demand, output is not keeping abreast of increasing home demand. Domestic prices have been forced up as a result of this demand. High production and processing costs and domestic oil prices above the current world level have caused the loss of much of the export market in vegetable oils and oilseeds.

BRAZIL: Production of specified oilseeds, 1954 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Commodity	Average 1935-39	1952 1/	1953 1/ 2/	1954 1/ 2/
Cottonseed	987,440	3/ 1,038,400	683,400	688,900
Castor beans 4/	148,000	174,160	188,950	192,900
Babassu kernels	46,250	60,630	66,140	60,600
Peanuts 4/	14,760	159,830	153,135	186,290
Oiticica seed	5/ 23,900	22,050	27,560	24,250
Flaxseed 6/	-	7/ 19,980	7/ 20,000	-
Sesame seed 8/	-	1,760	1,280	-
Soybean 4/	-	9/ 84,880	9/ 92,100	9/ 110,000
Tucum nuts	10/ 3,108	1,100	6,600	5,500
Tung fruit 4/	430	7,165	7,920	7,940
Ouricury nuts 4/	3,540	1,320	2,200	2,650

1/ Unofficial estimates except as noted. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Ministry of Agriculture. 4/ Ministry of Agriculture except for 1954. 5/ 1937-39. 6/ Official state estimates for Rio Grande do Sul. 7/ Equivalent in 1,000 bushels; 1952-714; 1953-715. 8/ Official state estimates for Sao Paulo. 9/ Equivalent in 1,000 bushels: 1952-2,862; 1953-3,070; 1954-3,674. 10/ Exports.

Compiled from official and unofficial sources.

Cottonseed production from the 1953-54 cotton crop is forecast at about 688,900 tons with 637,000 tons available for crushing compared with 683,400 tons and 632,000 tons for crushing from the previous crop. No cottonseed oil is expected to be available for export this year. Domestic consumption continues to increase whereas production is stable or declining. Cottonseed oil prices rose steadily during 1953 and are now about 25 percent above those of a year ago.

The 1953-54 peanut crop is forecast at 186,290 tons or 21 percent above production in 1952-53. Of this quantity about 18,740 tons probably will be set aside for planting and an estimated 22,000 tons will be used for food or in confectioneries, leaving about 145,500 tons available for crushing. Peanut oil production is expected to amount to 38,580 tons. Oil is in active demand domestically because cottonseed oil supplies have not been adequate for consumption needs. No exports of peanut oil have been recorded recently and only a negligible quantity of peanuts was exported last year. Further exports are considered unlikely this year.

Soybean production continued to increase in both Rio Grande do Sul and Sao Paulo. The 1953-54 crop is expected to be 3,674,000 bushels or one-fifth larger than the 1952-53 crop of 3,070,000 bushels. Of this volume probably less than 80,000 tons will be available for crushing. In Rio Grande do Sul as much as 20 percent of the crop is used for hog feed. Although Rio Grande do Sul produces about 90 percent of the crop only about 10,000 tons are crushed in the State. Most of the surplus is shipped to Sao Paulo or Rio de Janeiro for crushing.

Soybean exports in 1953 amounted to 959,626 bushels. Japan took 86 percent and is expected to be an important customer in 1954.

Soybeans for export during 1953 averaged $132.50 (U. S. currency) per metric ton ($3.61 per bushel) f.o.b. Rio Grande. The mid-April price was $140 ($3.81).

Castor bean production in 1954 is estimated at 192,900 tons compared with 188,950 tons in 1953. The weak world market situation is not encouraging to increased production. Exports of castor oil in 1953 amounted to 29,485 tons or 34 percent more than in 1952. Bean exports amounted to 23,591 tons or 40 percent less than in 1952. The trend of increasing oil exports and decreasing bean exports has been evident in recent years. Brazil lacks sufficient plant capacity, however, to crush all beans produced.

Present world prices make the export of Brazilian castor beans and oil relatively difficult. The Bank of Brazil recently announced minimum sales declaration prices for both beans and oil that have the effect of setting the export price at a level considerably above the world market. The comparison of official bank prices and approximate prices which American crushers are willing to pay are as follows in U. S. currency equivalent, f.o.b. Bahia:

	Castor beans Dollars per long ton	Castor oil Cents per pound
Banco do Brazil	120	12.25
U. S. crushers	105	11.00

Prices paid for castor beans for export during 1953 ranged from $105 to $195 per long ton ($94 to $174 per short ton) f.o.b. Bahia.

Whether exporters will be able to resume trading in castor beans and oil to any extent in 1954 depends largely on whether they are successful in getting the Bank to lower the present sales declaration prices. Domestic consumption of castor oil is increasing and local prices are relatively high, but Brazilian industry at present probably cannot use more than 20 percent of the country's likely oil production.

Production of about 60,600 tons of babassu is predicted for 1954 against 66,000 tons last year. Exports have been virtually nil since 1952 because of low world prices and increasing domestic demand. In domestic industry babassu oil is consumed largely by soap manufacturers rather than as an edible oil.

The export price of babassu kernels during 1953 was $210-$200 per metric ton ($191-$181 per short ton) f.o.b. Sao Luiz compared with $180-$210 ($163-$191) in 1952.

Oiticica seed production this year is estimated at 24,250 tons compared with about 27,560 tons in 1952. Oiticica seeds are not exported. Oil exports, largely to the United States, totaled 5,554 tons in 1953. Mid-April prices of both liquid and solid oil in bulk were 15-16 cents per pound, f.o.b. steamer.

Tung fruit production in 1954 is expected to be about the same as the 7,920 tons produced in 1953. Most of the tung oil produced is consumed by domestic paint producing industries. In 1952, 907 tons were exported but in 1953, only 2 tons.

The December-February 1953-54 flaxseed harvest is estimated at 713,600 bushels or about the same as the crop of the previous year. All of the linseed oil production--estimated at 6,500 tons in 1953--is used domestically.

Ouricury nut production in 1954 is estimated at 2,650 tons against 2,200 tons last year. No nuts or oil are available for export as all are consumed domestically principally in making soap.

Production of tucum nuts is expected to be 5,500 tons compared with 6,600 a year ago. Although significant quantities of nuts were exported in recent years, shipments in 1952 and 1953 were practically nil.

Coconut production probably will be about 270 million nuts this year compared with some 268 million in 1953. There are no known exports of coconuts or coconut oil.

INDONESIA'S COPRA EXPORTS UP IN MARCH

Indonesia's exports of copra during March amounted to 23,009 long tons, an increase of one-third from the previous month and 20 percent above the volume shipped in March 1953. Exports during January-March amounted to 55,251 tons against 51,840 tons in the comparable period of 1953. The buying price for copra was reduced to 120 rupiahs per 100 kilograms in East Indonesia and to 115 rupiahs in West Borneo because of the lower export price.

CHILE MAY REQUIRE VEGETABLE OILS FROM NEW SOURCES

Chile may seek new sources of vegetable oil supplies if consumption requirements of 44,000 long tons are to be met, according to P.M. Davenport, American Embassy, Santiago. If this year's domestic production of sunflower seed oil reaches 20,000 tons, it will be necessary to import 22,000 tons of oil. Since the Argentine sunflower seed crop will be small this year, Chile must seek other sources of vegetable oils, although difficulty in obtaining the necessary foreign exchange may be encountered.

Chile imported 22,292 short tons of edible vegetable oils in 1953, of which 11,053 tons of sunflower seed oil came from Argentina and 5,746 tons of rapeseed oil came from Germany. Imports of industrial vegetable oils, principally linseed and coconut oils, amounted to 119 tons in 1953 and came largely from the United States, the United Kingdom and Argentina. Fish and whale oil imports came to only 16 tons. Oilseed imports consisted of 173 tons of peanuts and 85 tons of castor beans, all from Argentina.

The purchase of German rapeseed oil for 1953 was made at a price of 527 German compensation dollars per metric ton, or the equivalent of 31.5 U.S. cents per pound. 1/

Exports of fats from Chile in 1953 were reported at 3,877 tons of industrial oil (believed to be largely whale oil), 87 tons of whale oil and 9 tons of fish oil.

Indigenous oilseed production in 1953 was as follows with comparable 1952 estimates in parentheses: sunflower seed--82,510 short tons (71,525); hempseed--4,460 tons (4,530); and flaxseed 198,000 bushels (229,000).

Chile now produces between 6,000 and 7,000 tons of whale oil annually, but production should increase with the erection of a new whaling station at Talcahuano and with the purchase of a factory vessel, now under discussion.

1/ On basis of converting compensation dollars into Chilean pesos at the applicable rate of 145 pesos per compensation dollar, then converting pesos into U.S. dollars at the rate of 110 pesos per dollar.

SWEDEN'S RAPESEED OUTPUT EXPECTED UP IN 1954

Sweden's 1954 production of rape and mustard seed is tentatively forecast at 137,000 short tons, substantially above the estimated output of 100,200 tons in 1953, reports Elmer A. Reese, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Stockholm. Flaxseed production is expected to drop to 213,000 bushels against 318,900 bushels last year.

The 1953 output of all fats and oils in Sweden was as follows: rape and mustard seed oil--39,600 tons; linseed oil--3,100; tallow--6,700 tons; lard--16,400; and tall oil, crude--33,950 tons. Rapeseed oil production was less than half of the 1952 output.

Domestic consumption of rape and mustard seed oil in 1953 is estimated at about 42,000 tons and of linseed oil at 17,000 tons. Tallow and lard consumption about equaled production.

Foreign trade in 1953 resulted in a net export of 46,300 tons of rapeseed oil and a net import of about 10,000 tons of linseed oil. Total exports of crude and distilled tall oil were 14,370 tons. Imports included 1,891 tons of tallow and 190 tons of lard. Prices to producers for the 1953 rapeseed crop were reduced in relation to 1952 and additional reductions have been agreed upon for the 1954 crop. The price of edible tallow and lard amounts to about 2.50 kroner per kilo (21.9 cents per pound) and for distilled tall oil 0.75 kroner (6.6 cents).

Reserve stocks of all kinds of fats and oils increased from about 10,500 tons at the beginning of 1953 to 18,000 tons at the end of the year. Stocks of margarine on December 31, 1953, were 1,850 tons.

CHINESE SOYBEANS THROUGH SUEZ CANAL HIGH IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1954

Shipments of Chinese soybeans through the Suez Canal in January-February 1954 totaled 115,700 short tons (3,860,000 bushels), an increase of 15 percent from the 100,300 tons (3,340,000 bushels) which transited the Canal in the first 2 months of 1953, according to information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. The volume in January-February of this year probably was the largest quantity of Chinese soybeans passing through the Canal in any corresponding 2 months of the postwar period. The total 1953 northbound movement of soybeans through the Suez Canal was 352,700 tons (11,760,000 bushels) against 219,400 tons (7,310,000 bushels) in 1952.

BELGIUM'S OILSEED IMPORTS DOWN

Belgium's vegetable oilseed imports in 1953 totaled 151,161 short tons, a decrease of almost 44 percent from 1952 imports of 269,924 tons, reports Robert N. Anderson, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Brussels. Net imports of raw vegetable oils, however, rose to 59,148 tons against only 1,840 tons in 1952. The reduced consumption of oilseeds in Belgium last year was due partly to the much smaller export possibilities for oil.

Principal oilseed imports last year were: Flaxseed--1,502,947 bushels, mainly from Canada; copra--29,447 tons, mostly from the Philippines; soybeans--25,807 tons, from the United States; palm kernels--12,605 tons, from the Belgian Congo; and peanuts--8,445 tons, from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Nigeria. Peanut oil--28,095 tons and palm oil--48,884 tons were the major vegetable oils imported. Exports of refined oil fell to 11,661 tons against 17,016 tons the year before.

Flaxseed production in Belgium last year was 647,798 bushels, somewhat less than the 1952 and 1951 crops due to smaller yields. The 1953 rapeseed production of 2,200 tons was the smallest of any year since 1946. Cultivation of other oilseed crops in Belgium is insignificant.

The production of crude edible oils and crude lineseed oils from both domestic and imported raw materials was reduced appreciably but that of hydrogenated and refined oils was a little higher. Linseed oil output was 19,940 tons or less than half the 1952 production. Crude edible oil outturn fell to 56,628 tons in 1953 from 86,800 tons the year before. Crushers stated that linseed oil from Argentina and later from the United States was priced below the cost of production in Belgium. As a result many of the Belgian mills were closed during most of the year. This was reflected also in the low production of oilseed cake, which amounted to only 41,370 tons of linseed cake and 68,500 tons of other oilseed cake in 1953.

THAILAND'S FATS AND OILS SITUATION 1953

Thailand produced 9,370 short tons of coconut oil from 16,500 tons of copra in 1953, reports G. S. Quate, American Embassy, Bangkok. In addition about 600 tons of oil were imported. Some 5,130 tons of copra cake were exported to Singapore and to Europe. Copra production figures are not available. As estimated 555 million coconuts were produced in 1952 (latest estimate available), but only a portion was used for copra production as large quantities of coconuts are consumed as nuts. Copra prices during 1953 averaged about 290 baht per picul of 60 kilograms ($209 per short ton).

Peanut production in 1953 is estimated at 38,580 tons of unshelled nuts. Bangkok oil factories reported oil production of about 2,200 tons. Exports of peanuts and oil in 1953 are estimated at around 16,700 and 730 tons, respectively.

Production of soybeans was assumed to be equal to 1952 output of 850,000 bushels. In Thailand, soybeans are not used for the production of oil, but large quantities are converted into soya sauce and bean curds. On the basis of 9-month exports, shipments for the year are estimated at 108,000 bushels.

Approximately 17,460 tons of cottonseed were produced in 1952 (latest data available). Bangkok mills reported a total production of about 55 tons of cottonseed oil in 1953.

Castor bean production approximated the 11,000 tons harvested in 1952. Of the 19,215 tons exported in 1952, 15,205 tons were consigned to Japan, 3,954 to the United States and the remainder to Europe. About 22 tons of castor oil were produced in Bangkok in 1953, all for domestic consumption.

Thailand harvested 9,800 tons of sesame seed in 1952 (latest data available). In that year exports amounted to 1,402 tons, destined for Singapore and Japan. No sesame oil is expressed in Thailand.

Production of pork lard is estimated at about 4,000 tons a year. Exports of lard are not permitted. Small quantities of shark liver oil are produced in Thailand on an experimental basis only.

SOUTH AFRICAN FATS AND OILS EXPORTS INCREASE SHARPLY IN 1953

The Union of South Africa exported 44,000 short tons of fats and oils in 1953 or more than double the 1952 shipments, reports H. S. Young, American Embassy, Pretoria. Vegetable oil exports totaled 16,582 tons compared with 8,920 tons the previous year. About 43 percent of the 16,167 tons of peanut oil and 57 percent of the 415 tons of corn and sunflower seed oil went to the United Kingdom.

Animal fat exports totaled 231 tons against 218 tons the previous year. Almost one half of the 129 tons of lard was shipped to Mauritius. Fish and whale oil exports amounted to 27,188 tons compared with 12,316 tons in 1952. The United Kingdom and the Netherlands were the major markets.

Imports of fats and oils into the Union in 1953 totaled 37,601 tons or one-fifth more than 1952 imports. The United States supplied 30,079 tons of the total 32,939 tons of animal fats. The remainder of the total imports consisted of 8 tons of peanut oil and 4,654 tons of fish oils.

Acreage and production statistics for the 1953 oilseed crops are not yet available. The peanut area was approximately the same as in the previous year, but the area planted to sunflower seed was down 12 percent.

The production of animal fats is estimated to have been 25,535 tons in calendar year 1953, based on the maximum possible production from commercial slaughterings of meat animals.

COLOMBIA INCREASES COTTON PRODUCTION

Increased cotton production in Colombia, notably in the Caribbean Coastal area, is resulting from the continued Government efforts toward self-sufficiency according to F. M. Dickman, American Consulate, Barranquilla, Colombia. Current estimates place the 1953-54 cotton crop at 80,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) as compared with estimates of 78,000 last year, and 47,000 in 1951-52. Annual cotton consumption in Colombia averages approximately 128,000 bales.

The Government agency handling the cotton program is responsible for buying the seed, giving instruction and help on growing cotton, purchasing unginned cotton at prices high enough to encourage expanded production, and operating gins and warehouses. Efforts for further increase of production are expected to continue through 1954, after which emphasis will be placed on establishment of a grade classification system and improvement in quality of the domestic growth.

Three major types of cotton are grown in Colombia, two of which are perennials. Yields from the latter types are low because most of it grows wild or is interplanted with other crops and control of insects is difficult. Most of the annual type is composed of Delta Pine and Stoneville varieties.

The Government maintains the price of domestic cotton, currently at about 51 cents a pound. The landed cost per pound of American or Peruvian cotton is about 38 cents. Mills are required to buy their quota of domestic cotton before any purchase of imported cotton is permitted. The bulk of the domestic crop is composed of short to medium staple, but lacks uniformity and is used mostly for weaving coarse cloth. Mill quotas of the local crop, as set by the Government are reported to exceed mill requirements for that type of cotton, and thus limit the amount of higher grades and longer staples that can be imported for production of high quality cloth.

Total cotton imports in 1952-53 were 73,000 bales, of which 31,000 were from Peru, and 39,000 from the United States. Increased production in Colombia is mostly of American Upland type, and is being reflected in reduced imports from the United States in 1953-54. United States export statistics show only 3,000 bales exported to Colombia during August-March 1953-54.

U. S. RICE EXPORTS EXCEED LAST YEAR'S HIGH LEVEL

Rice exports from the United States in March showed a continuing upward trend as compared with the level of a year earlier. Exports of 1,557,000 bags (100 pounds) compare with 1,150,000 bags exported in the corresponding month of 1953. Principal exports were to Japan. Shipments of 2,450 bags to Bolivia brought the August-March total to that country to 5,190 bags. Rice was exported to Liberia the first time this marketing year, with 22,400 bags to that destination.

RICE: United States exports to specified countries, March 1954, with comparisons 1/

Country of destination	August-July		August-March		March	
	1951-52	1952-53 2/	1952-53	1953-54 2/	1953	1954 2/
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Western Hemisphere:						
Canada	443	601	485	495	73	54
British Honduras	22	3	3	9	0	3
British W. Indies	54	81	79	5	3/	1
Cuba	5,118	4,876	3,656	3,935	392	116
Netherlands Antilles	25	41	29	36	3	7
Venezuela	196	86	56	167	6	7
Colombia	3/	3/	0	57	0	22
Other countries	38	15	7	22	1	4
Total	5,896	5,703	4,315	4,726	475	214
Europe:						
Belgium & Luxembourg	57	52	40	177	4	17
Greece	209	3/	3/	5	3/	3/
Iceland	3	8	7	3/	1	0
Switzerland	21	38	38	51	3	6
West Germany	1	3/	3/	16	3/	0
Other countries	3/	2	2	36	3/	0
Total	291	100	87	285	8	23
Asia:						
Saudi Arabia	91	138	93	84	14	8
Ceylon	741	647	647	0	0	0
Indonesia	1,799	1,100	1,034	0	201	0
Philippines	71	3/	0	3/	0	0
Korea, Republic of	2,821 4/	4,631	2,231	590 4/	253	0
Hong Kong	0	179	179	0	0	0
Japan	5,430	4,420	3,400	7,283	197	1,284
Ryukyu Islands	0	616	422	0	0	0
Other countries	9	5	3	21	0	3
Total	10,962	11,736	8,009	7,978	665	1,295
Total Oceania	13	19	16	13	2	2
Liberia	73	22	22	22	3/	22
Other Africa	4	1	3/	4	0	0
Total world	17,239	17,581	12,449	13,033	1,150	1,557

1/ Milled rice, including brown, broken, screenings and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 bags. 4/ Adjusted to include all programs of the Defense and the Foreign Operations Administration.

Source: Bureau of the Census, except as noted.

Total exports of rice thus far during the current marketing year (August-March) amount to 13,033,000 bags, an increase of 584,000 bags over exports during the like period of 1952-53. Japan in 1953-54 is the major destination of United States rice exports. More than four-fifths of March exports were to that country, bringing the total during the current marketing season to 7,283,000 bags.

United States exports of rough rice in March amounted to 40,526 bags to the following countries (in bags): Canada, 21,912; Honduras, 394; Cuba, 10,947; Jamaica, 74; Venezuela, 7,027; and Belgium and Luxembourg, 172. Exports of rough rice during the August-March 1953-54 period totaled 445,975 bags, an increase over 437,230 bags in the same period of a year earlier.

CEYLON INCREASES RICE IMPORTS

Ceylon's imports of rice have been slowly increasing in the post-war years to the extent that in 1953 they exceeded 900 million pounds. During 1951, Burma had the major share of the market, but owing to the advances in the rice prices of Burma in 1952, imports from that source were reduced. By 1953, only 315 million pounds of a total of 904 million were imported from that country. In 1952, the United States was a supplier in the amount of 134 million pounds.

CEYLON: Rice imports, by country of origin
January-March 1954, with comparisons

Country of Origin	Average 1946-50	1951	1952	1953	January-March 1953	January-March 1954
	million pounds	million pounds	million pounds	million pounds	million pounds	million pounds
Burma	1/ 504	831	496	315	38	56
Thailand	56	0	34	0	0	0
Indochina	0	0	51	0	0	0
Pakistan	2/	55	13	0	0	0
United States	0	0	134	5	5	0
China	0	0	80	584	135	108
Egypt	152	0	0	0	0	0
Other countries in America	80	0	22	0	0	0
Other countries	19	2/	64	2/	2/	2/
Total	811	886	894	904	178	164

1/ Burma and British India. 2/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Ceylon Customs Returns.

Communist China has been the principal source of rice imports since 1952. This it the result of Governmental agreement covering exchange of rubber and rice.

For 1954 Burma and Ceylon have entered into a long-term rice agreement with a minimum of 200,000 long tons (448 million pounds) to be supplied by Burma. An amount of 600 million pounds may be obtained by Ceylon upon notification of Burma before the beginning of the marketing year. The 1954 base price is stated to be £50 per long ton ($6.00 per 100 pounds) and this is to be decreased £2 (25 cents per 100 pounds) per year. Rice from Communist China is stated to be quoted at the same price. The 2 agreements with Burma and Communist China have provided ample import supplies for 1954, as evidenced by the fact that some 30,000 tons (67 million pounds) of Chinese rice have been sold to Japan, and 17,000 tons (38 million pounds) have been bartered for French flour.

Consumption of rice in Ceylon at the present time is estimated to be about 700,000 long tons (1,570 million pounds) annually, of which about 400,000 (900 million pounds) must be supplied by imports and 300,000 (670 million pounds) is obtained from domestic production.

EGYPT TO REDUCE RICE EXPORT QUOTA

Egypt's announced export quota of 75,000 metric tons (1 metric ton equals 2,204.6 pounds) of rice in 1954 will likely be cut to 20,000 tons or less to conserve supplies for domestic consumption, according to Jay G. Diamond, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Cairo. Thus far only about 9,780 tons of the original quota have been disposed of under the auction plan previously reported. Of these sales, most of the rice is destined for Syria, and the price has averaged about $202 per metric ton. The Egyptian Government is holding a current stock of 82,000 metric tons from 1953 rice collections in addition to export sales already made. Further sales of some 10,000 tons will be made if buyers can be found. Additional exports later in the year will depend on the size of the 1954 rice crop.

PAKISTAN PRODUCES RICE FOR EXPORT IN 1954

Pakistan is reported to have for export 160,000 long tons (1 long ton equals 2,240 pounds) of low-quality Sind rice, with a broken content of about 45 percent. This rice is held for export by the Ministry of Food, Government of Pakistan.

Pakistan's third official forecast, released in April, places the 1953-54 rice crop at 8,806,000 long tons, milled, an outturn 1,010,000 tons, or 13 percent, larger than the corresponding estimate of a year earlier. If the official final estimate of rice production in 1953-54 to be released in July shows this rate of increase (13 percent), the crop, when completely reported, will amount to 9,200,000 long tons as compared with 8,147,000 tons in 1952-53. The previous record crop of Pakistan was 8,429,000 tons in 1948-49. The unusually large crop this season is due to increased acreage and favorable weather.

ITALY REDUCES TAX ON RICE EXPORTS

Reports from trade sources indicate that Italy has reduced the export duty on Originario and other high-quality rice. The previously reported duty was $1.96 per 100 pounds on Originario paddy to be milled for export, and $1.52 per 100 pounds on other high-2uality varieties. The new export tax amounts to $1.09 per 100 pounds on paddy of all varieties. No export tax is levied against brokens.

The previous system of the allocation of rice exports by quarter-year periods has been abolished, and shipments toward either dollar or sterling areas may be made against the total annual allocation.

The reduction in export duties has been reflected in prices, and quotations for Originario rice are now from 91 cents to $1.36 per 100 pounds lower than before the tax was reduced. Recent nominal quotations were: Originario brown rice, $7.98 to $8.07 per 100 pounds, white rice, unpolished, with 5 percent brokens, $9.25 to $9.34 per 100 pounds. These prices are f.o.b. Italian ports.

NETHERLAND ANTILLES A MAJOR MARKET FOR U. S. POULTRY PRODUCTS

The Netherland Antilles, off the coast of Venezuela, and noted for its oil refineries and petroleum enterprises, has in recent years become a major market for United States poultry and egg products. On Curacao and Aruba there is a continual demand for quality poultry and egg products.

United States exports of eggs in the shell and fresh or frozen poultry, however, were down the first quarter of 1954 compared to the same period in 1953. This might be attributed to a decline in purchasing power resulting from a cut-down of major construction projects on the Island of Curacao in 1954 reducing the number of workers needed in the area.

These rocky islands hold little agricultural significance. Commercial poultry raising does not seem to be economically feasible because of the unavailability of low cost feed and production facilities.

United States exports of fresh and frozen poultry and game for the first quarter of 1954 totaled 177,000 pounds compared to 209,000 pounds for the same period in 1953. In recent years, exports have increased from around 180,000 pounds in 1938 to 960,000 pounds in 1953. The Netherland Antilles in 1953 was the United States' third most important export market for fresh or frozen poultry. These exports provide a market for broilers produced in Southeastern United States. This market should expand as consumers become more familiar with attractively packaged eviscerated birds.

During the first three months of 1954, U. S. exports of eggs in the shell amounted to 91,000 dozen compared to 141,000 dozen for the same period in 1953. The Netherland Antilles, the United States' fourth largest export market in 1953, took 570,000 dozen eggs an increase of 37,000 dozen over 1952. This market should remain firm as long as the United States exporters continue to ship quality eggs.

ITALIAN ALMONDS HURT BY FEBRUARY FROST: CITRUS UNDAMAGED

A survey of the citrus and almond production prospects in southern Italy has been completed for the United States Department of Agriculture by J. Henry Burke, marketing specialist of the Foreign Agricultural Service, and Earl Fox, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Rome.

Mr. Burke and Mr. Fox report that the February cold weather did no significant damage to continental Italy's and Sicily's citrus crop. The summer lemon harvest and orange and lemon production will be normal. Bergamot groves in Calabria facing the Ionian Sea have been damaged by the 1953 floods and total 1954 bergamot production may be expected to be slightly lower than normal.

This reduction in bergamot production may extend for several years as washed out groves are replanted and heavily silted groves recover. Since Italy is the major source of world bergamot production, higher prices of bergamot essential oil may be expected.

Sicilian trade sources report that Italy's total 1953-54 lemon crop now nearly harvested may be larger than previously estimated, as much as 30 percent above the 1952-53 harvest. Production from new lemon acreage and less damage from mal secco have aided production this year.

Almond production in Italy's Puglia region (Bari area) which produces half of Italy's almonds has been injured by unfavorable weather in early February.

Observations made at Cerignola, Bari, San Michele di Bari and Gioia del Colle indicate that the extensive coastal plain area has only a small to a fair set of regular bloom almonds and all the coastal areas have a crop of small off-bloom nuts from a late February, after the frost, bloom.

It was observed further that in some orchards the set of nuts was spotted with every other tree, in rows having no almonds, a condition which might occur if late and early blooming varieties were mixed planted in the same orchard.

Observations made in the inland higher plantings near San Michele di Bari and Gioia del Colle indicate that in this area the 1954 crop is nearly a complete failure.

The ultimate size of the total almond crop in the Puglia region will depend on the set of the off bloom nuts in the coastal area. Even if a large percentage of this late bloom matures the total Puglia almond crop may be expected to be at least 25 percent less than the 116,045 metric tons of unshelled almonds produced in this region in 1953. This crop reduction will affect about half of Italy's almond producing area.

Almond production in Sicily, which produces roughly half of Italy's almonds, was not observed.

WORLD TOBACCO TRADE INCREASES IN 1953

World exports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1953, totaled 1,291 million pounds, about 10 percent above 1952 and the third highest of record in the postwar period. The postwar record was set in 1951 when world exports reached 1,304 million pounds. The 1953 total was 23 percent above the 1935-39 average for comparable countries Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and China were excluded, since 1953 data are not available from these countries.

Principal Exporting Countries: The United States continued as the world's leading tobacco exporter in 1953. Its exports totaled 516,357,000 pounds, 30 percent above 1952, and comprised about 40 percent of the world total as compared to about 34 percent in 1952. Other countries whose exports rose, included Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Turkey, Indonesia, Algeria, Nyasaland, the Union of South Africa and Colombia.

The principal countries whose exports declined in 1953 as compared to 1952, included Canada, Cuba, Yugoslavia, Syria, India, Brazil, Madagascar and Southern Rhodesia.

Flue-cured leaf accounted for 441,998,000 pounds or 85 percent of total 1953 United States exports, compared with 319,270,000 pounds or 80.5 percent in 1952. Burley exports from the United States in 1953 totaled 25,007,000 pounds, 5 percent of the total, compared with 26,871,000 pounds or about 6 percent of the total in 1952. Exports of fire-cured leaf amounted to 23,761,000 pounds in 1953 compared with 26,612,000 pounds in 1952.

Exports from all Latin American tobacco-exporting countries combined were somewhat lower in 1953 than 1952, as increases reported for Honduras, Colombia and Paraguay were more than offset by falling shipments from the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Brazil.

The oriental-type tobacco producing countries of southeast Europe and the Near East exported 11 percent more tobacco in 1953 than in the preceding year. Exports from Greece rose to a postwar high of 107,860,000 pounds, while Turkey's 1953 exports, 147,901,000 pounds, have been exceeded only once since World War II. On the other hand, Yugoslavia exports in 1953, 13,631,000 pounds, were about 27 percent below 1952.

Unmanufactured tobacco exports from Far Eastern countries as a group dropped 7 percent from 1952 and were about 30 percent below prewar. Indonesian exports were 18 percent above 1952 but still 67 percent below 1935-39 prewar average. India's exports in 1953 totaled 68,076,000 pounds or 18 percent below 1952, but were 44 percent above the 1935-39 prewar average. Japan and the Philippine Republic are still far below the prewar average.

Principal Importing Countries: Several important importing countries showed substantial increases in imports of unmanufactured tobacco in 1953 as compared with the previous year. The United Kingdom, Italy and Germany increased imports substantially and lesser increases were reported by Sweden, Australia, French Indochina, the United States and a number of other countries. Significant declines in imports were reported by France, Spain, the Philippines, Japan, Denmark, Egypt and Ceylon.

The United Kingdom continued as the world's leading tobacco importer in 1953. Its imports totaled 315,770,000 pounds, 41 percent above 1952 when purchases from the United States were sharply curtailed in an effort to conserve scarce dollar exchange. From 1945 to 1951 the United Kingdom imported an average of about 334,000,000 pounds of unmanufactured tobacco from all sources. Imports of United States leaf by the United Kingdom accounted for 55 percent of the country's 1953 total imports compared with but 30 percent in 1952.

Western Germany, the second most important tobacco buyer, imported 122,770,000 pounds of tobacco in 1953, 9 percent more than in 1952 and more than in any other postwar year. The United States, the third most important importing country, took 105,428,000 pounds in 1953, 2 percent above 1952 and an all-time record.

Exports for the countries listed in the accompanying table are consistently above imports for a number of reasons, including, (1) reexports, which are included in the export statistics for a number of countries, have not been shown as imports in some countries, (2) a number of countries, whose trade is small and whose imports materially exceed exports are omitted from the tables and (3) imports into the Soviet Union are not shown because data are not available.--Based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

(Table on following pages)

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: International Trade, Averages 1935-39, 1945-49, Annual 1950-53

	Average 1935-39		Average 1945-49		1950		1951		1952		1953 1/	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
NORTH AMERICA:												
Canada	15,294	4,317	17,052	1,626	22,933	1,322	29,422	1,152	38,315	1,677	28,389	1,497
Costa Rica	-	40	2/ 72	88	-	80	-	88	-	100	-	3/ 100
El Salvador	23	495	-	2,201	-	2,487	-	3,402	9	3,078	-	3/ 3,000
Guatemala	-	68	-	333	-	423	-	751	-	757	-	713
Honduras	1894	43	3,851	52	7,015	4/ 125	3,930	146	3,217	161	4,161	171
Mexico	215	210	497	1,857	608	2,736	656	1,833	361	3,602	548	3,320
Nicaragua	-	175	-	488	-	651	-	613	-	600	-	3/ 600
United States	429,797	71,274	513,579	84,136	477,596	90,031	522,089	104,652	396,279	103,056	516,357	105,428
Cuba	27,712	-	32,649	-	31,818	-	43,397	-	45,733	-	4/ 37,156	-
Dominican Republic	13,652	-	38,524	2/ 122	31,910	-	35,257	-	33,609	-	3/ 33,000	-
Total North America	479,587	76,622	606,224	90,903	571,880	97,855	634,751	112,637	517,523	113,031	619,611	114,829
EUROPE:												
Austria	2/ 1,424	2/ 16,954	-	2/ 13,542	2,543	17,397	372	21,138	513	21,439	1,075	22,761
Belgium and Luxembourg	6/ 413	40,695	6/ 2/ 485	33,892	6/ 95	47,311	6/ 5,933	54,268	6/ 540	47,229	6/ 267	47,106
Bulgaria	59,396	-	2/ 55,246	-	3/ 20,000	-	5/	-	5/	-	5/	-
Czechoslovakia	-	2/ 20,768	-	2/ 26,460	-	3/ 20,000	-	5/	-	5/	-	5/
Denmark	490	20,206	2/ 695	19,347	1,158	30,464	765	22,171	46	22,183	4/ 147	4/ 19,218
Ireland	7/ 394	2/ 12,292	-	16,090	-	19,729	-	18,579	6/ 1,258	16,227	6/ 1,762	17,252
Finland	-	7,754	-	6,707	-	9,415	-	10,169	-	10,740	-	10,432
France	2/ 686	2/ 61,576	577	63,001	145	46,097	137	69,725	1,457	73,230	3,187	62,185
Germany	2/ 19	2/ 204,644	-	2/ 26,460	8/ 104	8/ 98,978	8/ 783	8/ 101,919	8/ 1,171	8/ 112,523	8/ 564	8/ 122,770
Greece	97,657	20	32,440	-	56,669	-	69,385	-	91,264	-	107,860	-
Hungary	19,162	3,106	2/ 840	-	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/
Italy	12,927	5,253	2/ 5,775	2/ 16,578	20,897	9,056	17,320	5,560	17,344	4,317	24,210	22,643
Netherlands	6/ 3,249	67,349	6/ 2/ 2,080	46,721	6/ 3,446	63,790	6/ 4,839	61,628	6/ 10,258	56,995	6/ 11,986	70,964
Norway	-	6,602	-	8,809	-	8,225	-	8,351	-	8,982	-	4/ 9,000
Poland	2/ 149	2/ 18,404	-	2/ 5,595	-	5/	-	5/	-	5/	-	5/
Portugal	-	6,381	-	10,024	-	10,381	-	10,483	-	10,694	-	10,761
Spain	-	3/ 30,979	-	38,746	-	55,600	-	46,883	-	55,948	-	4/ 44,826
Sweden	153	14,829	2/ 1,194	15,962	-	18,874	-	26,076	-	19,226	-	22,586
Switzerland	-	15,795	-	20,424	-	22,760	-	23,433	-	24,680	-	25,540
United Kingdom	6/ 5,996	258,486	6/ 4,699	335,848	-	305,805	-	354,878	-	223,718	-	315,770
Yugoslavia	10,288	8,010	17,867	-	17,278	1,897	13,832	11,433	18,475	-	13,631	1,554
Total Europe	212,403	820,103	121,898	704,206	122,335	785,779	113,366	846,694	142,326	708,131	164,689	825,368
ASIA:												
Lebanon	9/ 2,762	9/ 112	9/ 4,987	9/ 768	1,173	538	807	1,086	849	693	728	965
Syria					5,439	1,349	8,314	619	6,385	906	4/ 2,640	4/ 1,108
Turkey	78,054	152	105,371	-	110,732	-	127,328	-	125,964	-	147,901	-
Ceylon	2,086	1,200	875	1,831	1,363	1,625	1,007	1,927	1,182	2,163	786	1,886
China	30,994	56,613	3/ 1,209	3/ 24,647	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/
French Indochina	2/ 216	2,718	-	4,937	-	11,678	-	12,377	-	16,867	-	3/ 19,746
Hong Kong	5/	10,450	6/ 1,180	7,230	6/ 6,052	9,491	6/ 37,470	25,276	6/ 1,672	6,106	6/ 2,673	8,051
India	43,500	4,791	55,445	11,262	88,533	8,382	109,441	5,848	82,881	5,831	4/ 68,076	4/ 3,102
Japan	14,700	5,458	2/ 450	-	884	2,977	1,530	3,649	2,204	22,333	1,165	16,197
Indonesia	101,176	2,765	2/ 5,970	2/ 4,797	28,111	8,860	28,472	14,588	28,195	17,538	33,254	16,182
Philippine Republic	37,357	1,075	2/ 7,817	2/ 277	8,137	28,792	13,856	9,871	26,132	32,542	26,315	25,468
Thailand (Siam)	13	3,405	-	1,745	-	2,926	-	1,697	-	6,177	-	5,000
Total Asia	310,858	88,739	183,304	57,494	250,424	76,618	328,225	76,938	275,464	111,156	283,538	97,705

SOUTH AMERICA:												
Argentina	180	16,878	4,042	18,322	-	-	-	5,853	-	763	992	-
Brazil	71,955	772	77,151	408	80,850	234	65,726	317	67,227	271	50,000	150
British Guiana	-	2/ 393	-	614	-	643	-	545	-	591	-	5/
Chila	-	172	-	827	-	737	-	752	-	650	-	4/ 347
Colombia	6,472	2/ 138	6,261	350	7,983	521	9,127	740	6,993	4/ 4	11,081	4/ 10
Paraguay	7,747	202	10,676	-	7,612	-	5,886	105	9,513	-	11,023	-
Peru	-	212	-	561	-	843	-	956	-	277	-	496
Surinam	-	-	-	192	-	104	-	105	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	-	3,051	-	6,103	-	9,261	-	10,719	-	7,685	-	8,964
Total South America	86,354	21,818	98,130	27,377	96,445	12,343	80,739	20,092	83,733	10,241	73,096	9,967
AFRICA:												
Algeria	24,979	7,482	14,637	6,517	23,677	8,512	29,870	9,489	23,631	9,932	27,774	9,903
French Morocco	-	2/ 3,921	2/ 2,543	4,969	-	5,426	68	3,856	22	4,259	295	5,366
Belgian Congo	-	3/ 1,000	118	2/ 3,130	-	3,137	-	6,142	-	5,258	-	5/
Nyasaland	12,810	-	20,950	2/ 15	23,758	10	27,000	5	20,539	-	26,255	-
Egypt	-	13,014	-	26,418	-	28,346	-	27,910	-	26,402	-	24,241
Gold Coast	-	1,471	-	1,397	-	1,341	-	1,654	-	1,799	-	4/ 1,608
Madagascar	5,262	17	3,676	-	6,285	66	9,594	44	7,600	-	765	-
Northarn Rhodesia	1,429	-	4,151	-	6,175	-	10,467	-	9,033	-	10,473	-
Southern Rhodesia	19,166	327	52,811	2/ 1,292	89,315	6,756	67,433	9,213	88,361	7,759	80,712	5/
Tunisia	-	2/ 2,843	-	2/ 5,957	11	5,811	11	4,888	11	4,956	155	6,158
Union of South Africa	635	3,100	1,084	4,476	2,091	4,271	2,891	4,536	2,068	2,528	4,446	2,046
Total Africa	64,281	33,175	99,970	54,171	151,312	63,676	147,334	67,737	151,265	62,893	150,875	49,322
OCEANIA:												
Australia	114	21,537	79	24,391	1	25,799	2	24,728	-	32,133	-	35,520
New Zealand	113	3,027	-	5,738	-	5,629	-	6,524	-	6,764	-	4/ 6,841
Total Oceania	227	24,564	79	30,129	1	31,428	2	31,252	-	38,897	-	42,361
TOTAL FOR COMPARABLE COUNTRIES, EXCLUDING BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND, HUNGARY, CHINA:	1,044,009	966,130	1,052,310	907,578	1,172,397	1,047,699	1,304,417	1,155,350	1,170,311	1,044,349	1,291,809	1,139,552
TOTAL FOR ALL COUNTRIES SHOWN:	1,153,710	1,065,021	1,109,605	964,280	1,192,397	1,067,699	1,304,417	1,155,350	1,170,311	1,044,349	1,291,809	1,139,552

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Less than a 5-yaar avaraga. 3/ Approximated from unofficial information. 4/ Estimated on tha basis of data availabla for 6 months or more of the yaar. 5/ Not available. 6/ Re-exports. 7/ Includes manufactured tobacco. 8/ Western Germany only. 9/ Separate data not available.

Source: Foreign Agricultural Servica. Preparad or estimated from official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service Officers and other information.